

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 15, 2016

Patricia Watts, Ph.D.
Program Director, FAA Centers of Excellence
Federal Aviation Administration
William J. Hughes Technical Center
ANG-E4, Fourth Floor, L-28
Atlantic City International Airport, NJ 08405

Dear Dr. Watts,

We are writing in full support of the University of Oklahoma's application for the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Center of Excellence (COE) for Technical Training and Human Performance (Opportunity No. 15-C-TTHP-100PM71515). Per Congressional direction, FAA COE research centers should be placed in geographic locations that currently do not have COE representation. Thus, the State of Oklahoma is the ideal geographic location for the new Center of Excellence. There are currently no COE efforts within our state, and many of our key team members are located in close proximity to several FAA technical training and research facilities, to include the Mike Monroney Aeronautical Center, the FAA Academy, and the Civil Aerospace Medical Institute.

Oklahoma has a rich history in aviation and is poised to move forward with strategic vision for the future. The University of Oklahoma (OU) is an integral part of this history, and it is celebrating 75 years of flight training this year. OU owns and operates the Max Westheimer Airport located in Norman, OK, and the University's aviation program includes a FAA Part 141 Flight School, which maintains 23 aircraft, 5 small Unmanned Aircraft Systems, and 2 advanced aviation training devices, and an FAA Air Traffic Collegiate Training Initiative degree program. OU has a 45-year history managing and staffing various FAA technical training contracts and programs, including the Management Training School (1971), the Air Traffic Instructional Service (1981), Partnership 21 (1995), Air Traffic Instructional Support Services (2007), and the Air Traffic Collegiate Training Initiative (2007).

The University of Oklahoma's partners in Oklahoma and throughout our proposed region are well positioned to support research in locations with varying types of geography and weather patterns. The weather in Oklahoma, which includes tornadoes, wind shears, flash floods, hail, blizzard and ice storms, is duly representative of the weather required of the proposed COE region and its impact on aviation. Most importantly, the National Weather Center (NWC) is housed in Norman, Oklahoma. Less than 10 miles from the proposed COE location, the NWC is an invaluable member of OU's team and would be capable of supporting initiatives at the COE.

The University of Oklahoma and its team possess unmatched multicultural diversity with the inclusion of a core institution and affiliate members representing a Historically Black College/University, a predominately Hispanic University, several two-year Community Colleges and Technology Centers, and also various 8A small and disadvantaged minority businesses with successful track records of working with FAA and other federal partners.

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We believe the University of Oklahoma and its team of partners are uniquely positioned to find innovative solutions centered on training and human performance that can benefit the entire aviation community by providing the research capability and leadership to solve the immediate and long-range challenges facing the future of the national air transportation system. We fully support the University of Oklahoma's application for FAA's COE for Technical Training and Human Performance. Thank you for your strong consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,



James M. Inhofe
United States Senator



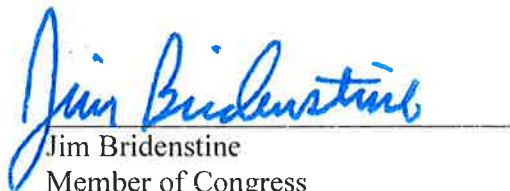
James Lankford
United States Senator



Frank D. Lucas
Member of Congress



Tom Cole
Member of Congress



Jim Bridenstine
Member of Congress



Markwayne Mullin
Member of Congress



Steve Russell
Member of Congress